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# EDITORIALS.

## C.I.A. Connection

**H**aving inexcusably lent its pages to the campaign against the Institute for Policy Studies [see Aryeh Neier, "An Open Letter to *The Times Magazine*," *The Nation*, May 30], *The New York Times Magazine* comes close to redeeming itself by publishing Seymour Hersh's two-part series, "The Qaddafi Connection," in its June 14 and 21 issues. Hersh, regrettably no longer with *The Times*, details the shady arms-trafficking of two former Central Intelligence Agency employees, Edwin P. Wilson and Frank E. Terpil. We ran our own story about Terpil-Wilson [see "Item. Item. Item.," *The Nation*, September 20, 1980], but Hersh has brushed in a larger picture and benefited from the firsthand knowledge of Kevin Mulcahy, a former C.I.A. man who worked for the two weapons merchants for six months.

Mulcahy, whose conscience drove him to leave Terpil and Wilson's lucrative program of aid to underdeveloped terrorists, described to Hersh in some detail their dealings with Libyan dictator Muammar el-Qaddafi, to whom they supplied explosive devices for terrorist bombs and expertise in the form of ex-C.I.A. operatives who provided instruction in the black arts.

Aside from Wilson-Terpil's greedy alacrity in supplying Qaddafi with whatever infernal machines he needed for his terrorist operations at multimillion-dollar profits, Hersh exposes the workings of an international traffic in high-technology weaponry, in which past and present C.I.A. employees are involved. There has grown up a clandestine intelligence-industrial complex, consisting of U.S. manufacturers who supply the agency with specialized equipment for James Bond-style activities, and operators like Wilson and Terpil who act as dishonest brokers between the makers and foreign governments that are in the market for the gadgets. These "technology transfers," forbidden by U.S. law, are proliferating, and include "normal" C.I.A. transfers for obscure purposes, as well as the black market sales of the only-for-profit boys. What is significant about Wilson-

Terpil's dealings is that they drew upon their contacts within the C.I.A. and among the old-boy network for direct help and simply to give themselves the aura of still being "connected" with the agency. Thus they can impress potential foreign customers with their "in" at Langley, Virginia, while conveying the illusion to the U.S. manufacturers that they are handling the deal as surrogates for the agency. (Some manufacturers, it should be said, backed out when they learned that their contract with Terpil-Wilson was not authorized by the agency.)

The ultimate irony is that when some of the world's most notorious terrorist groups want guns or explosives they are supplied not by Moscow but by Qaddafi, who in turn obtains them from his suppliers, the new breed of rogue C.I.A. men. Combating international terrorism would, it appears, begin at home, but we have heard nothing from the Reagan Administration on dealing with this facet of the problem. If the Administration does nothing, Congress should. As former Assistant Attorney General Philip B. Heymann told Hersh, what is needed are "statutes that would bar the sale of fancy American equipment and fancy American expertise for terrorist purposes. . . this question is exactly what Congress ought to be holding hearings on." Senator Jeremiah Denton please copy.

The real "traitors" in the C.I.A. are not the Philip Agees and the John Stockwells, whose acts of conscience have been taken as a pretext by some in Congress to push the unconstitutional names-of-agents bill; they are the Edwin Wilsons and Frank Terpils, whose consciences smoothly make the readjustment to civilian life, from clandestine operations for the agency to secret arms-trafficking for profit. Perhaps Kevin Mulcahy's whistle-blowing could stimulate other patriots in Congress to draw up appropriate legislation to deal with the operations of the latter.